

# KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 1120  
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120  
Phone: (502) 582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277  
E-mail: [nass-ky@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ky@nass.usda.gov)  
and the  
Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Richie Farmer, Commissioner

Volume No. 24 Issue No. 6  
Released: March 23, 2005

Published twice monthly

## **FEATURING:**

- ◆ County Estimates
- ◆ Cold Storage
- ◆ Dairy Products
- ◆ Slaughter
- ◆ Cattle on Feed
- ◆ Milk Production
- ◆ Chicken & Eggs

## **UNION, CHRISTIAN AND HENDERSON TOP CORN PRODUCING COUNTIES**

Union County was the top producing corn county in **Kentucky**. For 2004 Union County produced 13,221,600 bushels produced from 78,700 acres harvested with a yield of 168 bushels per acre. Christian County was second in production with 12,633,600 bushels, followed by Henderson County with 10,972,800 bushels. Other counties with seven million bushels or more of production were Logan, Daviess, Graves and Todd. Warren was the highest yielding county in Kentucky with 192 bushels per acre. Kentucky's corn production for 2004 was estimated at

173.3 million bushels, a 17 percent increase from 2003 and the largest crop on record. Adequate to surplus soil moisture combined with good growing conditions produced the large crop. Harvesting weather this past fall was ideal. Yields averaged 152 bushels per acre, up 15 bushels from 2003 and the highest yield on record. Acreage harvested for grain averaged 1.14 million acres, 6 percent more than 2003. **U.S.** corn for grain production was estimated at 11.8 billion bushels, up 17 percent from the 10.1 billion bushels produced in 2003 and a record high.

## **HENDERSON, DAVIESS AND UNION LEAD STATE IN SOYBEAN PRODUCTION**

Henderson County was the leading **Kentucky** soybean producing county with 4,000,500 bushels produced. This was from 88,900 acres harvested for beans with a yield of 45 bushels per acre. Daviess County was second with 3,690,000 bushels and Union was third with 3,150,000 bushels. There were 5 more counties producing over 2,000,000 bushels. Larue was the highest yielding soybean county with 54 bushels per acre. Soybean production for the State was estimated at 57.2 million bushels in 2004, up

6 percent from the good 2003 crop and the largest crop on record. Yield was estimated at 44.0 bushels per acre, up .5 bushel from the revised 2003 crop and a record high yield. Growing conditions were very good with adequate moisture. Soybean quality going into harvest was good but harvest after mid-October was weather delayed. Harvested acreage at 1.30 million acres was up 60,000 acres from the 2003 crop. **U.S.** soybean production totaled 3.14 billion bushels, the largest crop in history. This was 28 percent above 2003.

## **CHRISTIAN, LOGAN AND TODD WERE TOP THREE WHEAT COUNTIES**

Christian County produced 2,878,500 bushels of winter wheat and was the number one wheat producing county in **Kentucky**. Yield averaged 57 bushels per acre and harvested acreage totaled 50,500 acres. Logan was second with 2,407,000 bushels while Todd was third with 1,650,000 bushels. Other counties producing more than one million bushels were Simpson, Graves and Calloway. Caldwell and Wayne were the top yield producing counties with 63 bushels per acre. Kentucky's winter wheat production for 2004 totaled 20.5 million bushels, down 5

percent from the upward revised 2003 crop. Yield at 54 bushels per acre was down 8 bushels from 2003. Quality of the wheat crop started strong in the spring but wet weather and lodging delayed harvesting of the crop. Head scab and blight combined to reduce the final yield and test weights. In some cases sale of winter wheat was refused at delivery due to light test weight. Harvested acreage at 380,000 acres was up 30,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** winter wheat production was estimated at 1.50 billion bushels, down 13 percent from the 2003 crop.

## BARREN COUNTY CONTINUED AS CATTLE CAPITAL OF KENTUCKY

Barren County continued to have the largest number of cattle in **Kentucky** with 86,000 head on January 1, 2005. Warren was second with 65,000 head while Pulaski was third with 63,000 head. Kentucky ranked 13th in the nation with 2.25 million head, 3 percent below the previous year. All cattle and calves in the **U.S.** totaled 95.8 million head, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Texas had the largest cattle herd with 13.8 million head. Kansas, Nebraska, California and Oklahoma had cattle inventories of 5.00 million head or more on January 1, 2005.

Barren County also had the largest beef cow inventory in **Kentucky** with 35,000 head on January 1, 2005. Other top counties included Pulaski with 31,300 head, Warren with 30,700 head, Madison with 25,000 head and Bourbon with 23,500 head. Kentucky ranked 8th in the U.S. with 1.09 million head, the largest beef cow herd east of the Mississippi River. There were 33.1 million beef cows in the **U.S.**, up 1 percent from January 1, 2004. Texas had 5.43 million beef cows, the largest inventory in the U.S. Other leading states included Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska and South Dakota.

### COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 28, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, pork, vegetables, and fruit.

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Feb 05 as % of	
Commodity	Feb 29, 2004	Jan 31, 2005	Feb 28, 2005	Feb 2004	Jan 2005
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	542,790	646,843	629,993	116	97
Turkey	471,682	335,398	386,434	82	115
Ducks	1,328	401	475	36	118
Total Frozen Poultry	1,015,800	982,642	1,016,902	100	103
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	435,033	457,273	403,815	93	88
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	57,123	63,417	75,342	132	119
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	477,119	498,619	544,521	114	109
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	926,888	966,877	959,419	104	99

1/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 2/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

### U.S. DAIRY PRODUCTS, JANUARY 2005

PRODUCT	January 2004	December 2004 <u>1/</u>	January 2005	Percent of Jan. Dec. 2004 2004	
	(000) Pounds			Percent	
<b>BUTTER</b>	131,859	114,613	125,827	95	110
<b>CHEESE</b>					
American Types <u>2/</u>	321,380	323,415	321,552	100	99
Mozzarella	244,677	257,766	250,545	102	97
All Other Types <u>3/</u>	169,794	191,066	181,782	107	95
Total	735,851	772,247	753,879	102	98
	(000) Gallons			Percent	
<b>FROZEN PRODUCTS</b>					
Ice Cream (Hard)	59,132	55,182	60,394	102	109
Frozen Yogurt (Total)	4,403	4,145	4,357	99	105
<b>MIX FOR FROZEN PRODUCTS</b>					
Ice Cream Mix	34,788	30,795	34,225	98	111
Yogurt Mix	2,590	2,438	2,563	99	105

1/ Revised. 2/ Includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack. 3/ Includes Swiss, cream and all other types. Excludes cottage cheese.

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 2004

Red meat production for the United States totaled 45.6 billion pounds in 2004, 2 percent below last year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.4 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 136 million pounds.

Beef production, at 24.7 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Veal production totaled 176 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year, and set a new record low. Pork production, at 20.5 billion pounds, was 3 percent above last year, setting a new record high. Lamb and mutton production totaled 199 million pounds, falling 3 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2004 totaled 32.7 million head, down 8 percent from 2003, with federal inspection comprising 98.2 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,240 pounds, up 9 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 50.4 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.2 percent, dairy cows 7.3 percent, other cows 8.4 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 842,400 head, down 16 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under

federal inspection. The average live weight was 330 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 103 million head, up 3 percent from 2003 with 98.9 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 267 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.84 million head, was down 5 percent from 2003 with 94.3 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2003 at 136 pounds.

Red meat production in Kentucky during 2004 totaled 501.0 million pounds, up 6 percent from the 2003 level. Beef production totaled 14.2 million pounds live weight, 15 percent below the 2003 level. Pork production, at 658 million pounds live weight was 7 percent above the previous year. Lamb and mutton production, at 1.39 million pounds live weight, was 2 percent below the 2003 total. During 2004, animals were slaughtered at 56 plants in Kentucky, of which 20 were under federal inspection.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2004 and 6 percent above March 1, 2003.

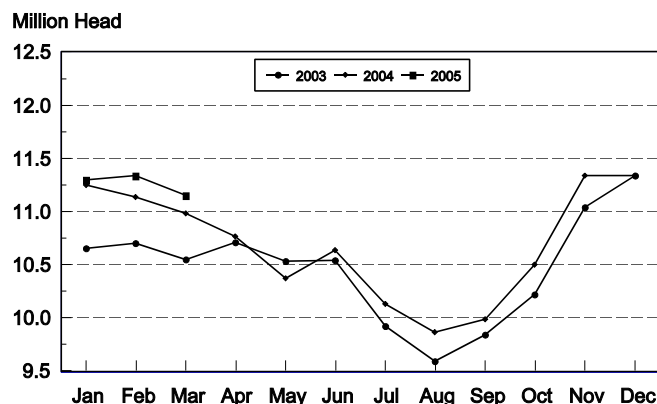
**Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.52 million, 6 percent below 2004 and 8 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.45 million. During February,

placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 277,000, 600-699 pounds were 308,000, 700-799 pounds were 526,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 412,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.63 million, 4 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 76,000 during February, 10 percent above 2004 and 7 percent above 2003.

United States Cattle on Feed  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



## MILK PRODUCTION

**Kentucky** milk production for February 2005 totaled 112 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent from last month. Average number of milk cows on farms was 110,000, down 1,000 head from last year and unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,020 pounds, down 15 pounds from last year and down 70 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during February totaled 12.2 billion pounds, down 0.7 percent from February 2004. However, production

was 2.8 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year. January revised production, at 13.3 billion pounds, was up 1.5 percent from January 2004. The January revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 29 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,516 pounds for February, 15 pounds below February 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.07 million head, 23,000 head more than February 2004, but 9,000 head less than January 2005.

## UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type		Feb. 2004	Feb. 2005	Feb. 05 % of Feb. 04
<b>Egg Production</b>				
Eggs Produced	(Million)	6,901	6,908	100
Average Layers	(000)	339,647	348,974	103
Eggs Per 100 Layers		2,032	1,980	97
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>				
Eggs Set Mar. 1	(000)	34,263	34,706	101
Chicks Hatched	(000)	32,078	32,910	103
<b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b>				
Eggs Set Mar. 1	(000)	647,596	658,866	102
Chicks Hatched	(000)	727,936	731,274	100

**Internet Access:** Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

---